IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. An identifier indicating the status of each claim is provided.

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A method of managing network accounts, comprising:

providing a first account with member access allowing two or more privileges in the network;

providing a second account with general access, ~~allowing~~

wherein general access comprises:

at least one privilege in the network that member access allows; and

at least one privilege less than the member access allows;

linking the second account having general access to the first account having member access; and

granting at least one privilege of said member access to said second account while said second account is linked to said first account,

wherein, when the second account and the first account are not linked, the second account reverts back to previous general access.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein:

said subscription has a higher cost than a cost needed to be eligible for an account having general access.

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3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein:

said member access privileges include allowing an account to participate in an online game.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein:

said member access privileges include allowing an account to initiate an online game.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein:

said member access privileges include allowing an account to access a restricted online resource.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein:

said member access privileges include allowing an account to participate in an online game in a way that indicates the account has member access.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein:

said member access privileges include allowing an account to participate in an online game with a visual cue indicating the account has member access.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein:

said member access privileges include allowing an account to participate in an online game in a way that is different from a way an account without this privilege of member access participates.

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9. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein:

said member access privileges include allowing an account to access one or more special resources in an online game that are not available to an account without member access.

10. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein:

said member access privileges include allowing an account to access one or more special features in an online game that are not available to an account without this privilege of member access.

11. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein:

said first account also has members-only access, and

said members-only access provides one or more privileges different from said two or more privileges provided by said member access and from said at least one privilege provided by said general access.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein:

said second account does not have members-only access when said second account is linked to said first account.

13. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein:

said first account also has said general access.

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14. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

    receiving a create member account request indicating said subscription;

    confirming said subscription allows creating a member account; and

    creating said first account.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14, further comprising:

    upgrading said subscription to allow creating a member account.

16. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

    receiving a create non-member account request; and

    creating said second account.

17. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

    receiving a link request indicating said first account and said second account; and

    confirming said first account allows linking.

18. (Original) The method of claim 17, further comprising:

    confirming said second account allows linking.

19. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

    receiving an unlink request indicating said first account and said second account;

    revoking said granted at least part of said member access from said second account; and

    unlinking said second account from said first account.

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20. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

    receiving a service request indicating a service having a minimum access and an account;

    confirming said requesting account currently has access meeting said minimum access of said indicated service; and

    providing said service.

21. (Original) The method of claim 20, further comprising:

    upgrading said requesting account to have access meeting said minimum access of said indicated service.

22. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein:

    granting said at least part of said member access includes granting less than all of said two or more privileges of said member access to said second account.

23. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein:

    granting said at least part of said member access includes granting at least one of said two or more privileges of said member access to said second account for a limited period of time.

24. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

    removing said member access from said first account while said second account is linked to said first account.

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25. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein:

said second account is linked to said first account indirectly through an intermediary data object.

26. (Original) The method of claim 25, wherein:

said intermediary data object is a pool.

27. (Currently Amended) A method of managing network accounts, comprising:

creating an̶ first account having general access;

communicating with a second account having member access,

wherein general access allows:

at least one privilege in the network that member access allows; and

at least one privilege less than the member access allows;

receiving an upgrade request requesting an upgrade of the first account having general access to include the at least one privilege of the member access;

confirming said first account is permitted to be upgraded based on said first account meeting one or more requirements for having member access, including being linked to an account having member access; and̶

upgrading said first account to have member access;

reverting said first account back to general access when said first account is no longer linked to at least one account having member access.

28. (Currently Amended) A method of linking network accounts, comprising:

creating a first account having ~~general~~member access;

sending a link invitation indicating a second account having ~~member~~ general access,

wherein general access allows:

at least one privilege in the network that member access allows: and

at least one privilege less than the member access allows;

receiving a link acceptance indicating said first account will be linked to said second

account;

sending a service request indicating a service having a minimum access requiring

member access; ~~and~~

accessing said service by said second account such that said second account has member

access while linked to the first account; and

reverting said second account to general access when the first account and said second

account are not linked.

29. (Currently Amended) A method of linking network accounts, comprising:

creating a first account having member access;

communicating with a second account having ~~member~~ general access,

wherein general access comprises:

at least one privilege in the network that member access allows: and

at least one privilege less than the member access allows;

receiving a link invitation from the second account having general access;

   sending a link request indicating said second account is to be linked to said first account;

~~and~~

   allowing the second account access to the at least one privilege of the member access;

   reverting said second account to general access when the first account and said second

account are not linked.

30. (Currently Amended) A computer program, stored on a tangible storage medium, for use in

   managing network accounts, the program comprising executable instructions that cause a

   computer to:

      providing a first account with member access allowing two or more privileges;

      providing a second account with general access; ~~allowing~~

         wherein general access comprises:

            at least one privilege in the network that member access allows; and

            at least one privilege less than the member access allows;

      link a second account having general access to a first account having member access; ~~and~~

      grant at least one privilege of said member access to said second account while said

second account is linked to said first account; and

      reverting the grant to said second account when said second account and said first

account are not linked.

31. (Original) The computer program of claim 30, wherein:

      said subscription has a higher cost than a cost needed to be eligible for an account having

general access.

32. (Original) The computer program of claim 30, wherein:

      said member access privileges include allowing an account to participate in an online

game.

33. (Original) The computer program of claim 30, wherein:

      said member access privileges include allowing an account to initiate an online game.

34. (Original) The computer program of claim 30, wherein:

      said member access privileges include allowing an account to access a restricted online

resource.

35. (Original) The computer program of claim 30, wherein:

      said member access privileges include allowing an account to participate in an online

game in a way that indicates the account has member access.

36. (Original) The computer program of claim 35, wherein:

      said member access privileges include allowing an account to participate in an online

game with a visual cue indicating the account has member access.

37. (Original) The computer program of claim 30, wherein:

said member access privileges include allowing an account to participate in an online game in a way that is different from a way an account without this privilege of member access participates.

38. (Original) The computer program of claim 37, wherein:

said member access privileges include allowing an account to access one or more special resources in an online game that are not available to an account without member access.

39. (Original) The computer program of claim 37, wherein:

said member access privileges include allowing an account to access one or more special features in an online game that are not available to an account without this privilege of member access.

40. (Original) The computer program of claim 30, wherein:

said first account also has members-only access, and

said members-only access provides one or more privileges different from said two or more privileges provided by said member access and from said at least one privilege provided by said general access.

41. (Original) The computer program of claim 40, wherein:

said second account does not have members-only access when said second account is linked to said first account.

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42. (Original) The computer program of claim 30, wherein:

> said first account also has said general access.

43. (Original) The computer program of claim 30, further comprising executable instructions that cause a computer to:

> process a create member account request indicating said subscription;
>
> confirm said subscription allows creating a member account; and
>
> create said first account.

44. (Original) The computer program of claim 43, further comprising executable instructions that cause a computer to:

> upgrade said subscription to allow creating a member account.

45. (Original) The computer program of claim 30, further comprising executable instructions that cause a computer to:

> process a create non-member account request; and
>
> create said second account.

46. (Original) The computer program of claim 30, further comprising executable instructions that cause a computer to:

> process a link request indicating said first account and said second account; and
>
> confirm said first account allows linking.

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47. (Original) The computer program of claim 46, further comprising executable instructions that cause a computer to:

    confirm said second account allows linking.

48. (Original) The computer program of claim 30, further comprising executable instructions that cause a computer to:

    process an unlink request indicating said first account and said second account;

    revoke said granted at least part of said member access from said second account; and

    unlink said second account from said first account.

49. (Original) The computer program of claim 30, further comprising executable instructions that cause a computer to:

    process a service request indicating a service having a minimum access and an account;

    confirm said requesting account currently has access meeting said minimum access of said indicated service; and

    provide said service.

50. (Original) The computer program of claim 49, further comprising executable instructions that cause a computer to:

    upgrade said requesting account to have access meeting said minimum access of said indicated service.

51. (Original) The computer program of claim 30, wherein:

granting said at least part of said member access includes granting less than all of said

two or more privileges of said member access to said second account.

52. (Original) The computer program of claim 30, wherein:

granting said at least part of said member access includes granting at least one of said two

or more privileges of said member access to said second account for a limited period of time.

53. (Original) The computer program of claim 30, further comprising executable instructions that

cause a computer to:

remove said member access from said first account while said second account is linked to

said first account.

54. (Original) The computer program of claim 30, wherein:

said second account is linked to said first account indirectly through an intermediary data

object.

55. (Original) The computer program of claim 54, wherein:

said intermediary data object is a pool.

56. (Currently Amended) A computer program, stored on a tangible storage medium, for use in

managing network accounts, the program comprising executable instructions that cause a

computer to:

create ~~an~~ a first account having ~~general~~ member access;

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communicate with a second account having ~~member~~ general access,

wherein general access allows:

at least one privilege in the network that member access allows: and

at least one privilege less than the member access allows;

process an upgrade request requesting an upgrade of the second account having general

access to include the at least one privilege of the member access;

confirm said second account is permitted to be upgraded based on said second account

meeting one or more requirements for having member access, including said second account

being linked to said first account; ~~and~~

upgrade said second account to have member access: and

revert said second account to general access when said second account and said first

account are not linked.

57. (Currently Amended) A computer program, stored on a tangible storage medium, for use in

linking network accounts, the program comprising executable instructions that cause a

computer to:

create a first account having general access;

send a link invitation indicating a second account having member access,

wherein general access allows:

at least one privilege in the network that member access allows: and

at least one privilege less than the member access allows;

process a link acceptance indicating said first account will be linked to said second

account;

send a service request indicating a service having a minimum access requiring member

access; and

access said <u>member</u> service <u>by said first account when said first account is linked to said</u>

<u>second account; and</u>

<u>revert said first account to general access when said first account and said second account</u>

<u>are not linked.</u>

58. (Currently Amended) A computer program, stored on a tangible storage medium, for use in

linking network accounts, the program comprising executable instructions that cause a

computer to:

create a first account having member access,

communicate with a second account, <u>the second account</u> having ~~member~~ <u>general</u> access,

wherein general access allows<u>:</u>

at least one privilege in the network that member access allows<u>;</u> and

at least one privilege less than the member access <u>allows;</u>

process a link invitation from the second account having general access;

send a link request indicating said second account is to be linked to said first account; ~~and~~

allowing the second account access to the at least one privilege of the member access

<u>while the second account is linked to the first account; and</u>

<u>reverting the access of the second account to general access when the second account is</u>

<u>not linked to the first account.</u>

59. (Currently Amended) A system for managing network accounts, comprising:

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means for linking a second account having general access to a first account having

member access,

wherein general access allows:

at least one privilege in the network that member access allows; and

at least one privilege less than the member access allows; and

means for granting at least one privilege of said member access to said second account

while said second account is linked to said first account;

wherein said first account has a corresponding subscription; and

means for reverting said second account grant of member access when said second

account and said first account are not linked.